

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

ACDA-05 BIB-01 /066 W

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R 121100Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9822

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 2122

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJ: MASHEROV COOL TO BREZHNEV AT BELORUSSIAN PARTY CONGRESS

REF: MOSCOW 1824

1. SUMMARY: BELORUSSIAN PARTY LEADERSHIP REMAINS STABLE.  
MASHEROV SEEMS RELATIVELY COOL IN REFERENCES TO BREZHNEV  
IN CONGRESS REPORT. END SUMMARY.

2. THE ELECTION OF MEMBERS AND CANDIDATE MEMBERS TO THE  
PARTY BUREAU OF THE BELORUSSIAN REPUBLIC DEMONSTRATES AGAIN  
THAT FEW MAJOR CADRE SHIFTS ARE BEING MADE IN THE REPUBLICS.  
OF THE SIXTEEN MEMBERS AND CANDIDATES ELECTED AT THE CENTRAL  
COMMITTEE PLENUM ON FEBRUARY 6 ONLY TWO ARE NEWCOMERS.

3. FIRST SECRETARY MASHEROV'S REPORT TO THE CONGRESS WAS  
SURPRISINGLY LACKING IN PRAISE FOR BREZHNEV. WHILE USING THE  
STANDARD "POLITBURO HEADED BY" FORMULATION IN REFERRING TO  
BREZHNEV ON TWO OCCASIONS, HE DEVOTES LITTLE PRAISE TO  
BREZHNEV'S QUALITIES AS A LEADER AND DOES NOT MENTION SPECIAL  
ATTENTION GIVEN BY BREZHNEV TO BELORUSSIA. MASHEROV'S  
TREATMENT OF BREZHNEV CONTRASTS PARTICULARLY WITH THE  
VERY FAVORABLE COMMENTS HE MADE ABOUT BREZHNEV IN  
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DECEMBER 1975 (PRAVDA, DECEMBER 11, 1975) AND WITH

THE DESCRIPTIONS OF BREZHNEV BY LEADERS IN OTHER REPUBLICS (SEE REFTEL). THE BELORUSSINA PARTY LETTER TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE IS SOMEWHAT MORE POSITIVE IN REFERENCES TO BREZHNEV, ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT ADDRESSED TO BREZHNEV (THUS ONLY BELORUSSIAN AND LATVIA HAVE OMITTED BREZHNEV AS AN ADDRESSEE).

4. FOREIGN POLICY WAS HARDLY MENTIONED BY MASHEROV, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOTE THE SUCCESSES IN REALIZATION OF THE PEACE PROGRAM AND IN THE RELAXATION OF INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS.

5. COMMENT: WE ARE PUZZLED AS TO WHY MASHEROV AT THE BELORUSSIAN CONGRESS BACKED AWAY FROM HIS HEAVY PRAISE OF BREZHNEV ONLY TWO MONTHS AGO. NO IMMEDIATE CONVINCING ANSWER IS APPARENT. ONE POSSIBILITY IS THAT MASHEROV HOPED FOR PROMOTION TO FULL POLITBURO MEMBERSHIP TWO MONTHS AGO AND NOW HAS WORD THIS WILL NOT HAPPEN.

STOESSEL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PARTY MEETINGS, COMMUNISTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1976MOSCOW02122  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 MOSCOW 1824  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <01 JUL 2004 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MASHEROV COOL TO BREZHNEV AT BELORUSSIAN PARTY CONGRESS  
**TAGS:** PINT, UR, (BREZHNEV, LEONID I)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006